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Title: Need to withdraw excise duty imposed on power loom industry, particularly in Maharashtra- Laid.

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SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR) : There are nearly 1.7 million power looms working in the country out of which more than nine lakh power looms are installed in Maharasthra. About five lakhs of power looms are concentrated in Bhiwandi area of Maharashtra.

Power loom industry in the country provides employment to over 30 million people. Nearly 33% of the total Indian export consists of the textiles wherein 96% is produced on power loom. The Government has levied excise duty on gray fabrics which is unjust and most harmful to the industry working in the unorganised sector of small and cottage scale. The power loom industry is already burdened with excise duty on yarn and processing of the gray fabrics at the stage of dyeing and printing. The levy of excise duty on gray fabrics shall result in closer of large number of power looms in the country and stoppage of cloth production on power looms will naturally cause the end of exports of the Indian textiles besides creating a very serious problem of unemployment.

I urge upon the Government to immediately announce the withdrawal of the proposal of levying excise duty on gray fabrics.